

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 10-14, 20 and 21 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 15-19 have been cancelled. Claims 6 and 11 have been amended. Claims 20 and 21 are new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Kuznicki, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,311,516). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 have been cancelled.

Claim 9 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 depended from Claim 8 which depended from Claim 6. Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 8 and 9 and Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 6, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claim 10, which depends from Claim 6, is also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuznicki, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,311,516) in view of Levinson (U.S. Pat. No. 5,404,505). Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claim 7 depends from Claim 6. As discussed

above, Claim 6 has been amended and is now believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Thus, Claim 6 is also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuznicki, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,311,516) in view of Kawamata, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,024,156). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuznicki, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,311,516) in view of Kawamata, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,024,156) as applied in Claim 11 above, and in further view of Levinson (U.S. Pat. No. 5,404,505). Claim 15 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 depended from Claim 11. Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 15 and Claim 15 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicants believe Claim 11, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claim 12, which depends from Claim 11, is also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claims 16-19 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER / NEW CLAIMS

Claims 9, 13, 14 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, Claim 9 has been incorporated into Claim 6.

Claim 13 depended from Claim 12 which depended from Claim 11. New Claim 20 is an independent claim which includes the limitations of original Claims 11, 12 and 13 and is therefore believed to be allowable.

Claim 14 depended from Claim 12 which depended from Claim 11. New Claim 21 is an independent claim which includes the limitations of original Claims 11, 12 and 14 and is therefore believed to be allowable.

As discussed above, Claim 15 has been incorporated into Claim 11.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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